

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 139

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 50

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 139—Relative to Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month.

[Filed with Secretary of State May 30, 2014.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 139, Ridley-Thomas. Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month

This measure would designate the month of April 2014 as Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month.

WHEREAS, Parkinson's disease impacts one million people in the United States and its prevalence is expected to rise in parallel with increasing life expectancy, with projections estimating a 100 percent increase in the number of people affected by 2030; and

WHEREAS, Parkinson's disease is a progressive neurodegenerative condition most commonly characterized by motor symptoms such as tremor and rigidity. Patients also suffer from nonmotor symptoms, such as sleep disturbances and depression, all of which can significantly affect the patient's daily activities and motor functions; and

WHEREAS, Life expectancy is reduced for all onset ages, with disease progression leading to severe disability and possible confinement to a wheelchair or a bed; and

WHEREAS, Although treatments are initially effective in treating symptoms, 50 to 90 percent of patients develop motor complications, such as "wearing off," early morning akinesia, delayed response, suboptimal response or no response, freezing episodes, and dyskinesias; and

WHEREAS, Caring for Parkinson's disease patients is a task that becomes increasingly complex and demanding as the severity of the disease progresses, until caring for the patient becomes the caregiver's main or almost only activity, resulting in significant caregiver burden; and

WHEREAS, Increased awareness and expanded knowledge of the realities of life with Parkinson's disease will allow the community at large to better support people who struggle with the challenges of this debilitating condition; and

WHEREAS, The National Parkinson Foundation, the Parkinson's Action Network, and the Parkinson's Disease Foundation are nonprofit organizations; and

WHEREAS, The National Parkinson Foundation, the Parkinson's Action Network, and the Parkinson's Disease Foundation have joined together to promote Parkinson's disease awareness and support, including improved education, knowledge, research, and treatment; and

WHEREAS, The National Parkinson Foundation, the Parkinson's Action Network, and the Parkinson's Disease Foundation are urging patients and their supporters, health care providers, and the general public to demonstrate that they care by sharing the road patient's walk, the facts about Parkinson's disease, and the ever growing awareness about the etiology of the disorder and potential treatments; and

WHEREAS, The community's focus on Parkinson's disease and its impact on patients' lives will help give hope for a better future for people with Parkinson's disease; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature designates the month of April 2014 as Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month, and urges all citizens to support the search for a cure and to assist those individuals and families who deal with this disabling disease on a daily basis; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.